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The Daily Gamecock, Wednesday, November 1, 2006

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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TEXT VOTES PICK KING, QUEEN

For first time, students help select Homecoming court

Mai Nguyen
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Homecoming got a royal kick-off at the Homecoming Showcase Monday night at the Koger Center.

Ten students participated in the annual event, vying for the crown of Homecoming King and Queen.

The Carolina Productions Homecoming Commission sponsored the event.

Chuck Redmond, a third-year business administration student, and Sonam Shah, a fourth-year biology student, won the title of king and queen.

Shah, who represented Omicron Delta Kappa, said she was more excited than nervous before going on stage.

"It's a great achievement to show how far I've come in four years," Shah said. "I was being myself, and everyone liking that was really rewarding."

Redmond, representing Alpha Phi Alpha, said he was glad to be a part of the Showcase.

"It feels great to win, and it was a great experience," Redmond said.

Instead of having first, second and third place this year, there was a king and queen and a prince and princess.

Jamie Downs, a fourth-year advertising student and Omega Psi Phi member, was crowned prince, while Ann Stanton Cannarella, a fourth-year business administration student and Chi Omega member, was princess.

Redmond also won congeniality for the men, and Emily Dawes, a fourth-year political science student and Chi Omega member, won for the women.

Amanda Alpert, a fourth-year broadcast journalism student and Homecoming commissioner, said the 10 contestants were chosen out of 53 narrowed down by applications, resumes, two references and personality.

Contestants performed in four events including talent and interview questions.

Talent ranged from monologues to dancing.

Kim Hunt, a fifth-year journalism student, said the talent portion of the event was her favorite to watch.

Alpert said the contestants were judged on their formal wear, poise, talent, personality and an audience vote during intermission.

Many students such

SHOWCASE • 2



Meg Gaillard / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC cheerleaders perform at Spurs and Struts Monday in front of the Russell House as a part of Homecoming.

Members represent organizations by gettin' groovy

Leslie Bennett
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Student organizations showed off their dance skills in the Spurs and Struts dance contest Tuesday.

The contest, themed "Rock on Carolina," featured couples and groups from a variety of student groups, fraternities and sororities.

The Homecoming event opened with a pep rally from the cheerleading squad. Cocky and the cheerleaders led the crowd in the fight song for the upcoming football game against Arkansas.

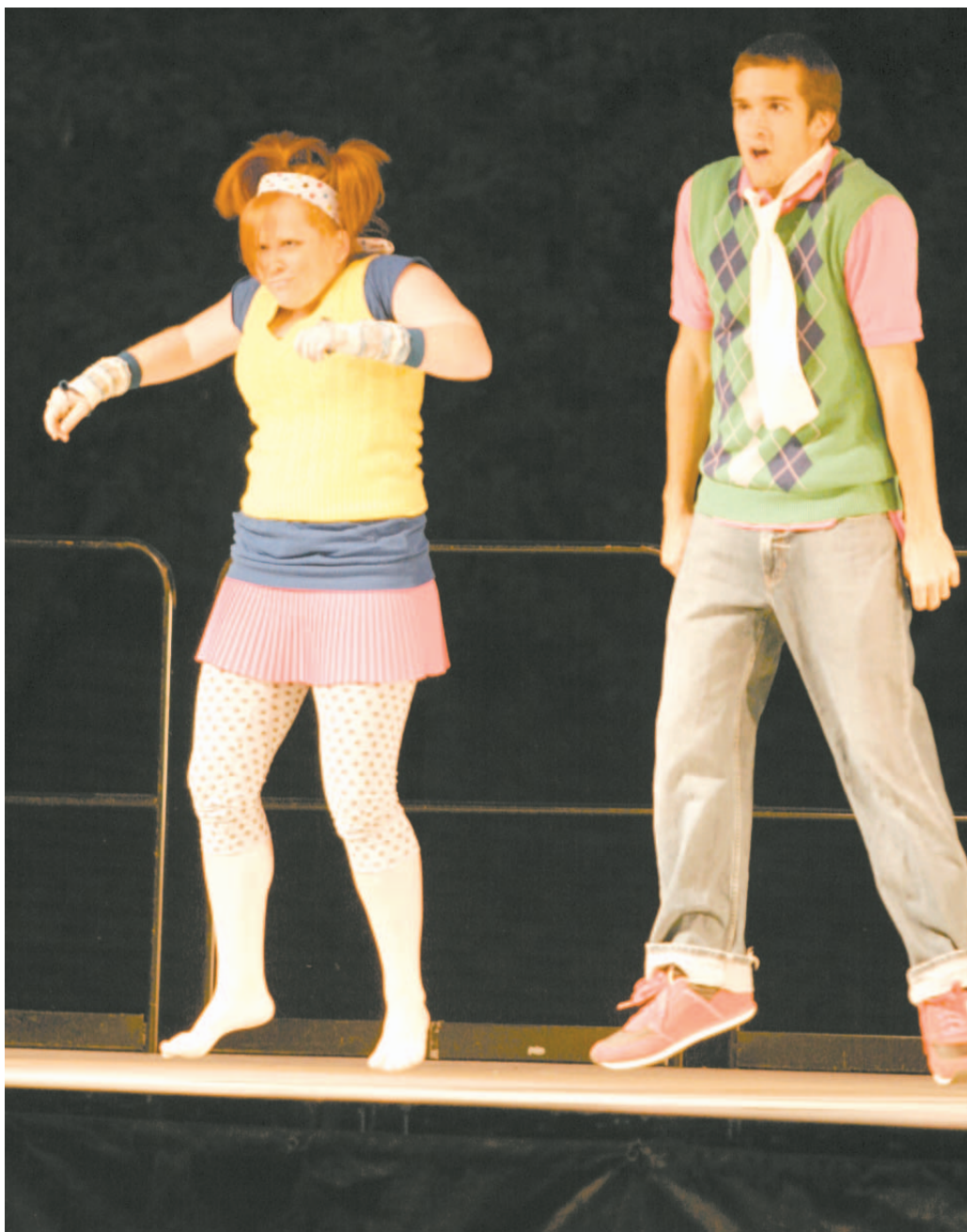
Carolina Productions dancers came onstage and performed to a medley of songs.

Student Body President Tommy Preston, a fourth-year political science student, said it was good to see the diversity in the event.

"Spurs and Struts brought together students of different organizations and classes," Preston said. "These types of events shows the diversity in the USC community and we should continue to do this."

The contest began with the couples' segment.

A member from Epsilon Sigma Alpha and a Kappa Kappa Psi member danced



Meg Gaillard / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Jackie Humphrey and Justin Linne, representing Dance Marathon, perform Tuesday at the annual Spurs and Struts dance competition in front of the Russell House.

to a country song. They waltzed across the stage and ended their performance when he picked her up and carried her offstage.

A member from Delta

Delta Delta and a Kappa Sigma member performed a number of dances, including the robot. The crowd cheered when the male student slid across the

stage on his knees.

A member from Alpha Chi Omega and Pi Kappa Phi danced to MC

SPURS • 2

Thomson offers flu shot

Chantelle Lytle
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Thomson Student Health Center is now offering flu shots to students and faculty in response to the yearly outbreak of the flu virus.

Dr. Mike McKenzie, a provider in the student health center, recommends every student on campus get the shot.

"Each year we have a tremendous amount of students who contract the influenza virus, and it spreads across campus rapidly," McKenzie said. "This vaccine is a simple and inexpensive way to prevent the flu."

Paul Miranda, a first-year computer-engineering student, said he will get his first-ever flu shot this year.

"I've never had the flu shot, and I haven't had the flu before either," Miranda said. "Getting the shot at the student health center is convenient for me. I know I don't want the flu. I can't afford to get behind on school work."

McKenzie said getting behind on schoolwork is often the result of the flu, confining many to their beds without any desire to function.

"The influenza virus prevents most students from doing their daily activities for up to a week," McKenzie said. "Students begin to lag behind after they contract this virus and if they miss this many days of school, it will be very difficult for them to catch up."

Andrew Sherman, a

second-year business student, said he isn't sure if he's getting one yet.

"My mom hasn't said anything to me about it," Sherman said.

The shot is \$10 for students and \$20 for faculty. The shot helps prevent students from contracting the flu or spreading the virus.

Sarah Shellenberger, a third-year public relations student, said she is not planning to get the shot this year.

"I got the flu shot last year," Shellenberger said. "It was pointless because it didn't even do what it was supposed to do. I ended up getting the flu shortly after I got the shot."

Deborah Beck, director of Student Health Services, said the flu shot is an

extremely effective vaccine, with plenty of shots available.

Beck said the flu vaccine presents a perfect opportunity for students to get their meningitis vaccine as well.

"With students coming in for their flu vaccine, there is ample time for them to get their meningitis vaccine taken care of as well," Beck said. "There is no limit to the amount of these vaccines that are given. The more the merrier."

An appointment is not required to receive either shot.

The meningitis shot is \$125, and students are required to present their student ID.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

RHA allots TV money, mulls move of meeting

Senators had debated changing week session for Ben Folds concert

Ryan James
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Residence Hall Association on Tuesday heard legislation on a new television in the Roost and moving their meeting time.

Senators voted down legislation that would have moved RHA's meeting next week from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. after a period of debate and the addition of two amendments to the legislation.

The original legislation would have moved the meeting back for senators who wanted to attend the Ben Folds concert Monday. The legislation had no accommodation for those with classes during the meeting.

An amendment was proposed to allow such an accommodation. The legislation along with the amendment was struck down.

Senators must find replacement representatives if they are not able to attend the meeting, said RHA secretary Alicia Lendon, a fourth-year psychology student.

RHA set aside \$1,200 for a 52-inch, big-screen television in the Roost. The television will be placed in a study room in the Roost that has been converted to a common area for residents on the second floor.

The money was taken from an RHA account with \$17,000 total.

RHA president and fourth-year history student Terrill Wilkins said the RHA executive board is having the same concerns as RHA senators in spending available money.

Wilkins said the executive board controls an account with \$30,000.

"One of the issues we've been talking about is the fact that five people, whether they are the leaders of this organization or not, have control of over \$30,000," Wilkins said.

Wilkins said the board has so much money in this discretionary account because several hall governments left as much as \$3,000 to \$5,000 of their available funds at the end of the year.

Wilkins encouraged senators to spend all the money available to their halls in a responsible manner.

"We really encourage you guys, as a senate, to start spending some of this money

RHA • 2

ON THE WEB



www.dailygamecock.com

Read online five days a week. The price is wrong.

Weather Forecast

TODAY	THU.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
High 80 Low 55	High 73 Low 42	High 59 Low 34	High 57 Low 33	High 61 Low 40

CRIME REPORT

MONDAY, OCT. 30
Larceny of television, 9:51 a.m.

Computer Services Center, 1222 Blossom St.
Someone stole a flat-screen television.
Estimated value: \$330
Responding officer: S. Wilcox

Larceny of clothing, 10:15 a.m.

Wade Hampton, 1528 Greene St.
The victim, 18, said someone took a pair of her corduroy pants.
Estimated value: \$200
Responding officer: J. DuPree

Grand larceny of tools, malicious injury to real property, 11:20 a.m.

Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center, 1000 Blossom St.

Someone cut a lock on a trailer and removed a generator and a handheld threading machine.

Estimated value: \$5,000
Responding officer: T. Brewster-Gooding

Harassment, 2 p.m.

Coker Life Sciences, 715 Sumter St.
The victim, 25, said someone had been harassing her.
Responding officer: L.M. Branham

TUESDAY, OCT. 31
Simple possession of marijuana, midnight

Blossom Street Garage, 1300 Blossom St.
Police reported Phillip Pierce, 19, was arrested for being found with marijuana in his vehicle.
Responding officer: J.M. Simmons

SPOOKS AND STRUTS



Meg Gaillard / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Fourth-year media arts student Sam VonCannon enjoys a snowcone at Spurs and Struts on Tuesday.

SPURS ● Continued from 1

Hammer's "Can't Touch This" and the Village People's "YMCA." They finished off their routine with a waving segment from *NSYNC's "Bye Bye Bye."

Members of Dance Marathon appeared onstage for intermission. The audience cheered as they did dance to songs from Missy Elliott, Fatboy Slim and other artists.

The couples' segment ended with a performance from a member of Chi Omega and Sigma Phi Alpha. They began their act Ike and Tina style with "Proud Mary," which included flips and lifts.

The Spurs and Struts dance contest continued with the group competition. Alpha Delta Pi and Delta Tau Delta began the segment with the song "Jump, Jive an' Wail" by the Brian Setzer Orchestra. They transitioned into a country song and continued with a cheerleading portion.

The Association of African American Students and Omega Psi Phi took the stage to Montell Jordan's "This is How We Do It." They continued into their performance with Danity Kane's "Show Stopper." They finished their dance with a mix of rap songs.

Courtney Robinson, a second-year advertising student and AAAS member, said she was glad to see so many people come out to the event. She also said she was proud to represent USC and her organization onstage.

Chi Omega and Sigma Phi Epsilon came onto the stage with a flag that said, "We built this city." They performed with a rock 'n' roll theme. People in prison-striped clothes danced behind a student portraying Elvis while the music played.

Delta Zeta and Lambda Chi Alpha brought a flag onstage, bearing the words "Back in Black." Their act opened with a student doing

a back flip and brushing the dirt off their shoulder to T.I. and Jay-Z's "Bring 'em Out." They concluded with Run DMC and Aerosmith's "Walk this Way."

Alpha Chi Omega and Pi Kappa Phi were the last act onstage. They showed off their dance moves while performing to songs like DMX's "Get it on the Floor" and "I Love Rock and Roll" by Joan Jett. During their dance, they used paper guitars to spell "Gamecocks."

Cheryl Wright, a first-year criminal justice student, said the show helped her get excited for her first Homecoming.

"I really enjoyed it. The organizations did a good job preparing for the show," Wright said. "It was a great way to start my homecoming experience at USC."

Winners will be announced at a later date.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

SHOWCASE ● Continued from 1

Erin Nobles, a second-year hotel, restaurant, tourism and management student, watched the Showcase to show school spirit.

"I came to participate in Homecoming," Nobles said.

Alpert said this is the first year the audience text messaged their votes, which count for 20 percent.

Melody Dawson, a first-year biology student, said she thinks audience text messaging votes could have a negative effect because contestants who have the most people come to support them would have an unfair advantage.

"I like the idea, but at the same time it stinks," Dawson said.

Redmond said he thought the audience text messaging their votes was a good idea, although there were a few problems.

"Some people were at a

disadvantage because they couldn't get signal or didn't have texting," Redmond said.

Redmond said it would be a good idea to include audience text messaging in future Showcases.

"I think it's important since the king and queen represent USC that the students have a say," Redmond said.

Austin Bersinger, a fourth-year economics student and Homecoming king contestant, said Homecoming was a great event at USC.

"This is the best of the leaders of USC organizations on campus," Bersinger said.

The king and queen will be recognized at an Inferno hockey game and attend all Homecoming events, where they will also ride in the parade, Alpert said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

CAROLINA ● BRIEF

USC sax professor to perform at Koger

Clifford Leaman, a professor and saxophonist, will perform "The Rivers" by faculty composer Fitz Rogers 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Koger Center.

Director of Bands James Copenhaver will direct the performance produced for solo saxophone and wind ensemble.

Rogers told USC Media Relations he dedicated the piece to Leaman.

"He's simply an incredible performer, and without his efforts, the concerto wouldn't exist," Rogers said.

The performance is free and open to the public.

"The Rivers" was commissioned by seven universities, including USC, Bowling Green State University, Drake University, Eastman School of Music, Furman University, Penn State University and the University of Tennessee.

For more information, contact Traci Hair at (803)-777-4278.

THIS WEEK ● USC

TODAY

Student Senate:

4 p.m. RH Senate Chambers

Academic Team Practice:

7 p.m. Humanities 104

THURSDAY

Homecoming Service

Project:

11 a.m. Greene Street

Step Show:

8 p.m. Russell House Ballroom

FRIDAY

NAACP:

6:30 p.m. RH Senate Chambers

Academic Team Practice:

7 p.m. RH 309

RHA ● Continued from 1

we have and to start using some of these resources so that our residents can benefit from them," Wilkins said.

Katie Hageman,

community service chairwoman and a fourth-year accounting student, said "Hands for Hunger" will be start Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Top of Carolina restaurant in Capstone.

Registration for the event will be on Greene Street from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday.

"Hands for Hunger" is a poker tournament that donates all proceeds to

charity. People can buy-in for either \$5 or 5 canned goods.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

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The Daily Gamecock

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SPRING 2007

The Daily Gamecock, University of South Carolina's student newspaper, is looking for a Spring 2007 Editor in Chief. Applicant must be of junior or senior standing, maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA, and have at least one year experience at the newspaper (or equivalent). Applicant must submit samples of work, completed application form and three letters of reference.

Application and job description available at:
Office of the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, RH 112.
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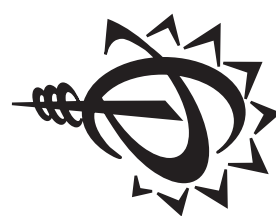
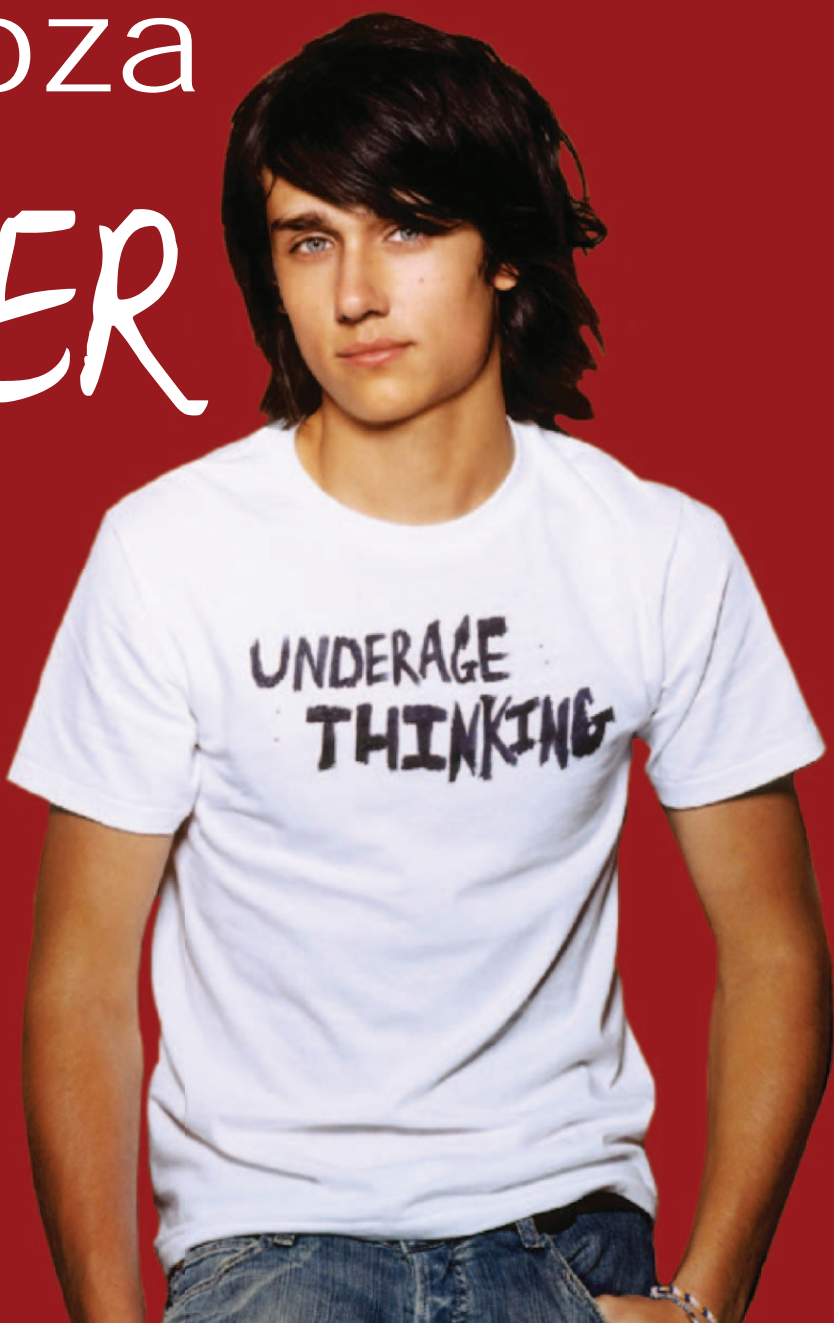
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TODAY
ANTIQUUE PHOTOS!
11-3PM/ Greene Street



The Daily Gamecock

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IN OUR OPINION

For Democrats' sake, Kerry should clarify

John Kerry needs to work on his punchlines. The Massachusetts senator and 2004 Democratic presidential nominee let unplanned October surprise slip Monday when, speaking to students at Pasadena City College in California, he turned a joke about President Bush and the American educational system into a fast-burning political firestorm:

“You know, education, if you make the most of it, you study hard, you do your homework and you make an effort to be smart, you can do well. If you don’t, you get stuck in Iraq,” Kerry said, according to The Associated Press.

Botched delivery or not, Kerry might have just shot his party in the foot before a close election.

election — and gave some people the impression that he’s the official party spokesman.

Kerry was a soldier once, and we don’t think he was branding all troops as C-average dropouts forced into service. The military doesn’t hire idiots to fly million-dollar helicopters or lead complex attacks on fortified terrorist hideouts.

But his comment did seem to paint the lives of high-school graduates as a strictly two-way street: Go to college and study hard, or get packed into a cargo plane with an American flag stamped on your forehead and an automatic rifle shoved into your hands.

Botched delivery or not, Kerry might have just shot his party in the foot, but it’s not too late to more clearly explain what he meant.

Tuesday’s election is shaping up to be the next in a recent line of closely contested races, and neither Democrats nor Republicans can afford such a moronic misstep from the mouth of someone who’s not on a ballot.

Kerry shouldn’t apologize for his comments — he should apologize for delivering the worst joke ever. His Heinz ketchup fortune can go to hiring Dave Chappelle.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today’s paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu

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STRAIGHT OUT OF RIGHT FIELD

City should safely climb crime charts

Columbia misses mark despite recent policies, security improvements



JACOB DAVIS
Third-year print journalism student

Morgan Quitno Press released on Monday its 13th annual rankings of the Top 25 Safest and Most Dangerous cities in America.

Brick, N.J. was declared the “Safest City in America,” while St. Louis, Mo. was once again dubbed America’s “Most Dangerous City.”

Missing from both Top 25’s is Columbia.

I couldn’t find it online, and there was no way I was shelling out \$4.99 for the print version, but suffice to say, we’re somewhere in the middle. Well guess what? I’m not satisfied with that.

I’m tired of Columbia not getting the respect it deserves for its progressive dedication to safety.

I say that the folks at Morgan Quitno need to add new criteria to their rankings. You can’t judge which city is safest by simply examining murder and burglary rates.

This is 2006, and safety means more than just the number of people victimized by run-of-

the-mill criminals.

In this new age of safety consciousness we have to examine how far our elected leaders are willing to go to protect us.

After all, if our government isn’t working to protect us, it’s working to hurt us.

Just look at Columbia’s City Council. They’re only one vote away from passing a virtual citywide ban on smoking. The city is going to protect me from the one-in-a-million chance I’ll get lung cancer from the half-puff of smoke I inhaled because I had to walk past the bar to the non-smoking section.

And you’re telling me we can’t even crack the Top 25?

But even with this in mind, we have to constantly look for ways to improve our standing. We’re in competition with hundreds of other cities, and they all want to be the safest, too.

We need to look to our even more progressive

neighbors for ways to become safer.

Just take a look at how the folks in Omaha, Neb. handled their smoking ban.

According to CNSnews, the Omaha police department said, “Citizens or business owners that observe a violation to this smoking ban are urged to call 911 and report the violation. Officers will respond and take appropriate action.”

The “action” officers can take is collecting fines up to \$500 if the offenders are prosecuted.

And what about that progressive Mecca of New York City? Well they’ve upped the ante even more, proposing a ban on all “trans-fats,” a substance commonly used to make food, well, “taste good.”

According to The Associated Press’ David Caruso, this move could cause a “ripple effect” across the nation as other states move to follow New York’s lead.

You hear that Columbia?

Only 364 days till the next rankings come out, and I want to see some improvement.

Elections generate ‘gay gene’ nonsense

Politicians manipulate idea of homosexuality as biological attribute



MICHAEL STEVENS
Fourth-year international studies student

Media outlets and certain political persuasions always up the rhetoric near election season.

Specifically, the platform of gay rights inevitably breaks the sound barrier, and its followers slowly attempt to school the voters out there about an upcoming gay marriage amendment.

Tragically, this movement continually makes the mistake of forming baseless assumptions in order to further the agenda.

It all begins with indirectly assuming that homosexuality is a biologically inherited attribute, and that a “gay gene” most certainly exists, thus qualifying this behavioral trait (and others) for governmental protection. Unfortunately for them, this is much like believing in Bigfoot: it’s a big, fuzzy and cuddly dream that may or may not be a reality.

I say “may” here with intent, since we should not draw abrupt conclusions. Much like the federal response to inquiries about

UFOs, there is simply not enough evidence yet to confirm or deny the presence of any “gay gene.” The scientific community is at extreme variance concerning this liberal theory.

So unless these pundits spend their weekends conducting groundbreaking research with gene linkage, I will hardly consider their leaps of faith as proof.

The absolute fact here is that gay marriage is formed on an unsubstantiated theory. Indeed, there are many other “progressive” movements that seek to ram legislation into voting booths, based on a shortage of evidence to support their amendments.

Such hallmarks of unverified ranting include alcoholics, polygamists, child molesters and so on. While these are NOT related lifestyles, they all seek genetic research in order to mitigate future government certification. Where’s their protection to “prevent discrimination”?

If we choose to allow one inconclusive behavioral trait legal protection, why not allow the rest of them as well?

Until these studies are completed and solidified, the government has a great responsibility to maintain an exact definition of marriage.

This is so I cannot argue from a genetic point to take my dog Basco to the altar and exchange vows. Without scientific correlation and credibility to back me up, voters should not endorse this specific type of marriage as legitimate for federally granted rights.

In spite of the slippery slope formed toward affecting all other behaviors, we are assured that making gay marriage legal will “not harm you or society.” Gee, thanks for the “final thought,” you Jerry Springer’s of science.

There is also a steady drum beat of noise that contends that any marriage should be legal exclusively on the grounds that it is between two consenting adults and doesn’t produce highly deformed offspring.

Well Basco, fetch the peanut butter, its honeymoon time!

No normal guy greeting makes social hellos hard

Cornucopia of welcomes remove simplicity of boys’ high fives, handshakes

For reasons unknown to me, college guys have developed one of the most complex greeting systems on the planet. Girls have it simple: All y’all need to do when meeting someone is go up and give them a hug. That is a perfectly acceptable greeting to any person in social situations.



TRAVIS FRAYARD
First-year business student

Guys don’t have it so easy.

When guys approach each other, almost instantaneously they have to decide how to greet each other. If they don’t know each other beforehand, it’s a pretty simple decision: the head nod for an informal greeting and a firm handshake for formal introductions. All guys understand that the “dead fish” handshake is an almost instant way to lose respect.

However, if the guys already know each other, the level of complexity increases.

If they are merely passing by without time to stop, there is the elbow bump, the pound, the high five or the hand slap. The difference between the high five and the hand slap is that in the high five, once hands hit, it’s over. In the hand slap, the high five is followed up with a quick half-hand shake, where the fingers cup together before snapping apart and each guy goes on his way.

If two guys are actually stopping, the complexity increases yet again.

This time, everything previously mentioned remains an option; however, we also add the option of the hug, the back slap, the shake/hug, the double-handshake or the increasing number of pounding rituals.

For clarification, the shake/hug is some type of handshake which is turned into an either full hug or a one-arm half-hug. The double-handshake is when a regular handshake is combined with a hand slap, essentially creating two handshakes with one hand in about a second.

And the craziest thing about all this is that most guys don’t even know which one they are doing until they are about half way through it.

The rituals that guys create are as complex as that daily ritual you ladies go through to “get cute” and “put on your face.”

Ultimately these apparently pointless greetings do serve a purpose. They are a form of communication between guys, as direct and understandable as common speech. The way you are greeted defines you as friend or foe, companion or acquaintance, welcome or not.

You girls can say what you want about guys being “simple,” but as far as I’m concerned, any guy who can successfully master this intricate greeting system deserves to graduate this university bi-lingual.

Second Year Students:

Are you feeling the Sophomore *Slump*?

If so, look into the...

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Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Rock band takes heart from stage to daily life

The Lawrence Arms prove that true musicians never forget their fans

It's blood and sweat and tears. It's rock and roll and dancing. It's going out to a show to see a band you love and walking away high on their songs. For me that's



MARY PINA
Third-year Retail student

seeing The Lawrence Arms.

I walked into New Brookland Tavern on Sunday shaking with anticipation.

I was freaking out.

I was going to finally see a band I have been playing almost non-stop, five days a week since the summer. This is a band that knows my life. This is a band that speaks to me.

The Lawrence Arms sings about my friends, and it sings about the things I do. This is a band that I feel like has lived in my home town and knows exactly what I'm going through.

So many nights after hanging out with my friends, The Lawrence Arms was right there with me in the car. My friend and I sang songs such as "Sixteen Hours" and "Chicago is Burning" at the tops of our lungs to make the drive back to my house shorter.

The Lawrence Arms puts 110 percent into its shows, going above and beyond for its fans. They love us as much as we love them.

While at the show I met people from Georgia and Tennessee who came all the way to see The Arms. It was communal. All of us had one purpose: to sing and dance for our band.

I danced my heart out and sang at the top of my lungs for every song. Even that quasi-religious experience didn't compare to actually meeting, talking and drinking with this band I hold so dear.

I've always worried about meeting one of my favorite bands. What if they turned out to be jerks? The band isn't rude. They are people lucky enough to get to do what they love, and their fans love what they do.

I got to take picture with all three members. I closed the bar down with those guys. Until 2 a.m. I had the chance to talk with them, joke with them and ask them all the questions fans have about music. Most of all I got the chance to thank them for their music.

Check out The Lawrence Arms online at www.thelawrencearms.net.

Joshua Rabon
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Colonel Sanders, watch your back.

While it doesn't sport a drive-through, fried-chicken seekers with the time to sit down should give Bernie's a chance before pulling over at a KFC or Bojangles'.

Walking through the door, the overall sanitation set Bernie's on the right foot. One worker was sweeping the floor, and looking for a table was a breeze — those not in use were thankfully free of who-knows-how-old meal debris and crumbs.

Bernie's offers a three-piece chicken special, with fries, coleslaw, a roll and tea for \$5.10.

Now comes the tricky part. Signs posted on the menu clearly state that menu prices reflect a 5-percent discount for cash. Easy enough, unless you're paying with a debit or credit card. While the value is undeniable (the price rivals a lower-quality fast-food restaurant), many of us have thankfully buried math classes forever. You shouldn't have to break out your calculator just to know how much your meal is going to be. It's probably only a few cents, but why not make things easy on the customer?

To be fair, the chicken was excellent. True, no one will ever make it like your grandmother (or if they do you will furiously deny it), but Bernie's whips any fast-food joint.

The chicken was crispy on the outside, tender on

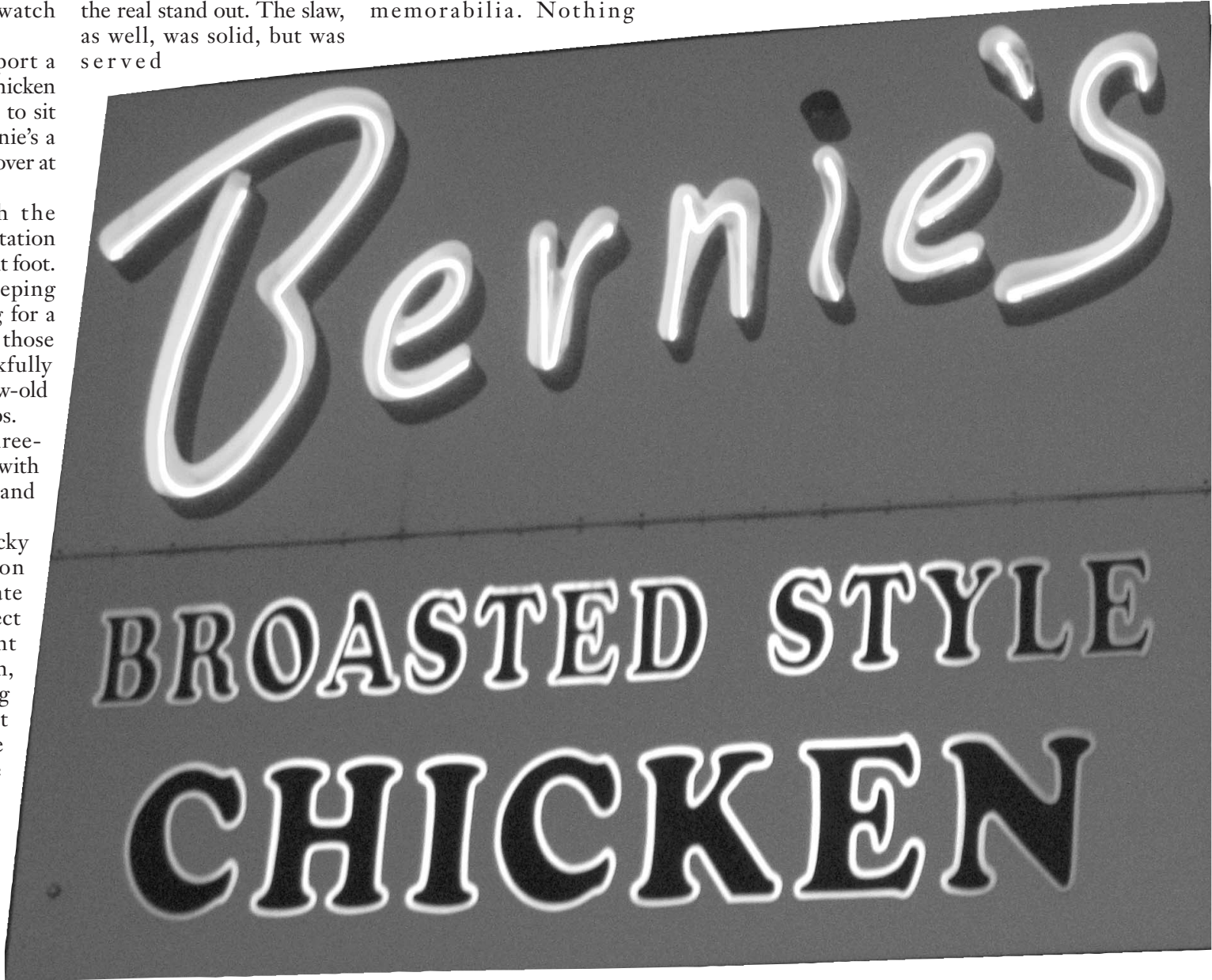
the inside, and served HOT. The fries were fairly average and the roll was straight out of a bag, but the chicken was the real stand out. The slaw, as well, was solid, but was served

The walls are covered with shots of Williams-Brice and awards from past games, as well as other Gamecock memorabilia. Nothing

of hospitality associated with fried chicken and slaw seemed a little forgotten.

Trying to get orders out

beat. Don't come expecting four-star service and you will leave satisfied.



in a microscopic portion. The slaw container looked more like something people would fill with ketchup for their fries, not a side item.

The sweet tea was thankfully not too sweet. Unlike the Grand Market Place, Bernie's doesn't need to worry about a flock of hummingbirds coming to steal away the sugar-water posing as tea. They get the proportions right.

involving Clemson was on display. Bernie's atmosphere was perfect for students or Columbia residents who just want to enjoy a meal sans linens and metal cutlery. There was no need to feel guilty about tearing into the chicken with your hands.

The only part of the experience which wasn't completely satisfying was the service — no one was rude by any means, but the sense

quick and serve hungry customers is understandable, but there is no need to sacrifice smiling while taking an order or saying "thank you, your food will be out in just a minute." Those are small touches that could really set Bernie's apart from the expectedly sub-standard service of many of their corporately owned rivals.

The bottom line: The food is great at a tough price to

QuickFacts

Bernie's Restaurant
1311 Bluff Road

Atmosphere — 7

Service — 7

Sanitation — 10

Quality of Food — 8

Value — 10

Legal high in caffeine drink form

Doctors get worried with students' love of Cocaine beverage

Laura Bauer and Joyce Smith
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Up all night studying? Throw back an energy drink and get through that early-morning geometry class.

Need a little pick-me-up in the middle of boring work or at the end of a long day? Drink one and you'll instantly have more fun. Throw back a couple, and it's fun times two.

This is how some companies are selling energy drinks, those cans of sugary-sweet, high-caffeine drinks with names like Red Bull, Rockstar and even Whoop Ass. Costing more than \$2 a pop, energy drinks are raking in \$3.4 billion a year for an industry that grew by 80 percent last year.

Lured by promises of high energy, possible weight loss and greater sports endurance, young people are consuming these drinks at a growing rate. According to an Associated Press report, 31 percent of U.S. teenagers say they drink them, and some say they down several

in a row to get a buzz.

While many say they're a harmless jolt of energy, doctors and nutritionists fear the medical side effects of these drinks, which aren't regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Others worry that drink makers will resort to anything — including pumping up caffeine levels — to lure the young.

Take one of the newest brands. It caused quite a shakeup recently, and not for its level of caffeine, believed to be among the highest.

The drink: Cocaine. Because of the name alone, convenience-store operator 7-Eleven Inc. is asking a handful of San Jose, Calif., franchise stores to stop carrying the high-caffeine drink. And the company is considering making it a nationwide request.

"Our merchandising team believes the product's name promotes an image which we didn't want to be associated with," said Margaret Chabris, a spokeswoman for 7-Eleven. "What is it, a legal alternative to an illegal substance?"

Cocaine — the drink — is not sold in the Kansas City, Mo., area but could be here by the end of the year. It comes in bright red and



Chuck Myers/ MCT Campus

white cans, similar to Coca-Cola.

But the Cocaine name is spelled out in a powdery white font intended to resemble lines of white cocaine powder.

"(The name) is a slap in the face to the prevention we try to do," said Janine Gracy of the Regional Prevention Center. "Yeah, it's not the drug itself, but what about

those who say, I drink this, what's the difference, maybe I'll try that."

And what about the next drink to come along? How far will makers go to stand out in a market where more than 500 new energy drinks were launched worldwide this year?

"At what point do you say caffeine is not a drug that can have adverse side effects in a healthy person?" said Christine McPherson, a district nurse with De Soto public schools. "You're talking 280 milligrams."

Controversy was strategic to setting the product apart from the horde of new drinks introduced this year, said Jamey Kirby, senior partner at Redux Beverages, with offices in Las Vegas and Murrieta, Calif., and founder of Cocaine.

But even Kirby was "flabbergasted" by the clamor Cocaine created.

"The politicians are saying we are glorifying drug use, that we're desensitizing the youth to the dangers of drugs; they're calling for stores to boycott it," Kirby said. "Where did the coke in Coca-Cola come from? Why aren't they banning Coca-Cola? Our name is right there on the edge but I don't think it falls over the

edge."

It's marketed as the "legal alternative" and described by creators as tasting like a carbonated atomic fireball. Each can has 280 milligrams of caffeine, twice the amount in a regular cup of coffee.

Ana Alzarex of the Flamingo Mini Mart in Naples, Fla., has been carrying Cocaine for about a month.

"It's selling very well here in Naples. We are selling more than Red Bull," said Alzarex, who doesn't like the taste of energy drinks. "We're going to keep selling it. No one has complained yet."

But other retailers are choosing their public image over profit.

"It was a no-brainer," said Mike Thornbrugh, spokesman for QuikTrip. "We don't see how in the world you can be a responsible retailer and sell a commodity that glamorizes illegal drugs."

Most health-care professionals recommend a daily dose of no more than 250 to 300 milligrams of caffeine.

McClatchy Newspapers correspondent Adjoa Adofa contributed to this report.

11/1/06

35 Site of the Taj
Mahal
37 2000 candida
Ralph
38 Debut on
NASDAQ
39 Dapper
44 Hammed it up
45 Woman's shirt
46 Paycheck
recipient
48 Endure

49 Lower oneself
50 Gulf of Mex.
neighbor
51 City on the
Mohawk
52 City on the
Ruhr
53 Cafe au ____
54 Magnani or
Maffoni
55 Crass
56 Mt. meas.

whichever works for now.

LEO You always like to get the best, and you find ways to afford it. This does not preclude getting a good deal. Put in the extra effort.

VIRGO A person who, at first appears to be borderline crazy, actually has a good idea. Take notes and help achieve it.

LIBRA You've done a lot that got neither notice nor payment in return.

SCORPIO You're a very powerful person, especially when you're in love. You can move mountains, and the odds are good you will.

SAGITTARIUS Caution is

required, as you tackle a difficult project. Don't be foolish, but don't be stopped, either.

CAPRICORN You've been doing a lot of reading lately. Don't hide what you've discovered. Pass it along to a friend who can use it to get something good for you both.

AQUARIUS Sure, you can be wealthy and still be a good person. The one doesn't exclude the other at all. Be a role model for the masses.

PISCES You should be in a marvelous mood and full of great ideas. Write them down and make a list.

Ex: “Although slightly embarrassed, Jake knew that he couldn’t let a little ridicule stop him from buying the new ‘My Little Pony’ play-set, as he had a penchant for watching cartoons from the early ’90s.”

USC's goal: next level

Key victories against SEC's top-tier teams elude Gamecocks

Michael Aguilar
STAFF WRITER

After another disappointing loss, a sentiment seems to be running through the Carolina locker room.

"We are capable of beating a ranked team," coach Steve Spurrier said. "But until we do it, that's all we are, capable."

After losing to a top-10 team by a touchdown for the second time this season, it seems the Gamecocks have the talent to play with the SEC's top competition.

It's just a matter of putting everything together during one game.

"That is football. The ball is not always going to bounce your way," Spurrier said. "You have to make your breaks sometimes, and the good teams have the ability to do that."

Against Georgia, the Gamecocks could not capitalize on opportunities in the red zone and forced turnovers. When Auburn came to town, USC could not pick up an onside kick, and Jared Cook let a touchdown pass slip through his fingers that would have tied the game. Last weekend against Tennessee, a fumble/interception on Carolina's first drive was run back for a touchdown, and the

Gamecocks couldn't hold off a potent Tennessee attack or break through a staunch defense to pull off an upset win.

"It just shows you how close we are," junior offensive lineman William Brown said. "We just gotta go out there and perform better. It comes down to performing when the lights are on. The guys who go out there and do that, the big teams they win those games."

"We are capable of beating a ranked team."
— Steve Spurrier

At the beginning of the season Brown's unit, the offensive line, was the one aspect of Carolina's team being called to a higher performance. In the last few games, a combination of the offensive line performing better and senior quarterback Syvelle Newton getting a better feel for the pocket has resulted in better performance for the line.

In Newton's first game as a starter against Division I-AA opponent Wofford, the line surrendered three sacks and six tackles for a loss, a total of 39 lost yards. Last weekend against a strong opponent from the strongest conference in the nation, the line gave up no sacks and five tackles for a loss, a total of 6 lost yards.

However a late punt return down to the Gamecock's 5-yard line sealed the game for Tennessee. Special teams, which appeared to single-handedly win the Mississippi State game, let Carolina down against a top-10 opponent.



Juan Blas / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Running back Mike Davis and the Gamecocks face Arkansas on Saturday at 7:45 p.m.

"It's just coming down each position and each unit going out there and doing what they're supposed to do," Brown said. "You know if we do that we'll be successful, and we'll win"

This weekend the Gamecocks look to tie up

loose ends against a strong Arkansas team and finally beat a ranked opponent. It will take all Carolina has to beat a 7-1 Arkansas team atop the SEC West.

Fortunately, the Gamecocks are ready to give all they have.

"We just have to play our game," junior defensive end Ryan Brown said. "I'm pretty sure we'll win if we play our game."

Comments on this story?
E-mail gcksprts@gwm.sc.edu

Game day atmosphere hampered by bald guy

Pompous male cheerer among annoying things that bothers this fan

I have to make a confession before I write this. I have not been a Carolina fan for that long. In fact, I never watched a USC football game in its entirety until the Gamecocks took on

UCF in the season opener last season.

So, the opinions that I share here may or may not be valid. I suppose I'll have to get back to

you once I have a couple more years under my belt. Until then, as a second-year Gamecock, I have a couple of bones to pick with the general Carolina population.

First, I'm sure I don't even need to say anything about throwing stuff onto the field. However, I will. I wish we would just quit doing that. Honestly, to the national audience we look like a bigger bunch of rednecks than Clemson. Just stop and learn to deal with your anger in more productive ways, like punching a visiting fan. I'm kidding, I just said that because it's funny. Don't actually hit visiting fans.

Secondly, I've noticed an inordinate amount of pessimism when it comes to your average Carolina fan. I hear excuses for close losses such as, "We're Carolina" and "That's the Gamecock way." Both are ridiculous statements. I've seen flies go up against fly swatters with more confidence than a Gamecock fan has against any opponent.

On that note, please stop talking like we are going to lose every game. Look at our team's performance so far this season and realize that we have lost to two top-10 teams by a single touchdown.

I am not trying to say this is success, but I am saying this is not the apocalypse. There are upsides — this program is improving, and it is only a matter of time before coach Steve Spurrier has the Gamecocks on top of the SEC.

Lastly and most importantly, I have one goal and one goal only before I graduate from this great university. That is to see the guy that handles the microphone at the football games fired.

Whoever this bald moron is reminds me more of Stone Cold Steve Austin than any remotely decent cheerleader/pep leader/whatever he wants to be called. I prefer Mr. Clean. I have yet to encounter a single student who supports the embarrassment that Mr. Clean inflicts on our fans every Saturday.

AGUILAR ● 9



Juan Blas / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Forward Mike Sambursky and the USC men's soccer team seek to defend their C-USA tournament soccer title this week in Tulsa, Okla. They open with UAB today at 3:30 p.m.

Gamecocks ready for rematch with UAB in tournament kickoff

Savi Smith
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

No. 4 USC will take on the fifth-seeded UAB Blazers at 3:30 p.m. in the Conference USA Men's Soccer Tournament that kicks off today in Tulsa, Okla.

The Gamecocks' (11-4-1, 4-3-1 C-USA) opponents, the Blazers, have an overall record of 9-6-2, but their C-USA record is the same as the Gamecocks'.

The teams' last matchup Sept. 27 had USC defeating UAB 2-0 for their fifth shutout win of the season. USC held the nation's longest winning streak with nine-straight victories.

Though USC went on to lose its next game in a double overtime heartbreaker to Kentucky, the Gamecocks pulled out the season with a solid record and earned a No. 4 seed in the Conference USA tournament.

UAB is not a team to be taken lightly. Coming off two wins, the Blazers recently defeated then No. 1 Southern Methodist University Mustangs 2-1 on Oct. 25, and Florida International

University Panthers 2-1 on Saturday. UAB was ranked No. 25 in the nation after they defeated SMU.

In addition to their new ranking, UAB had two players named to the all-conference first team.

Also named to this team were Carolina forward Mike Sambursky and defensive player Ryan Leeton.

The top-seeded SMU will take on No. 8 FIU at 1 p.m. today, and the winner will play the winner of the USC vs. UAB game for the semi-finals on Friday.

The championship game will be at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The other four teams in the bracket are Kentucky, Memphis, UCF and Tulsa.

USC traveled to Tulsa on Saturday and suffered a 1-0 loss to the University of Tulsa to end the season.

But after a day of rest, the Gamecocks returned to Tulsa to prepare to take on the Blazers in the Conference USA tournament.

Comments on this story?
E-mail gcksprts@gwm.sc.edu

C-USA Tourney

Round 1
USC vs. UAB
Tulsa, Okla.
3:30 p.m.

AGUILAR • Continued from 8

Honestly, anyone who thinks that it is a good idea to shout "Get Your Cocks Up!" after we score points in a football game has enough wits about him to make Kellen Winslow III look like an altar boy. The worst part about Mr. Clean is that it appears he believes we like him.

There is more than one Facebook group dedicated to his firing, and last season he got booed when he

picked up the microphone. Is that a hard message to understand?

I am begging whoever is in charge of this department — for the sake of my sanity, for future students — to get rid of this wannabe pro wrestler.

I am relatively sure that Carolina fans can figure out how to shout "Game" and "Cocks" on their own. Even if they cannot, it is a worthwhile sacrifice to never hear this man talk into a microphone ever again.

GAMECOCK CHALLENGE

THE CHALLENGE: Every week, The Daily Gamecock's readers and staff test their sports knowledge with game predictions.

Penn St at 17 Wisconsin

Virginia at FSU

Missouri at Nebraska

Georgia at Kentucky

13 LSU at 8 Tennessee

16 Boston College at 22 Wake Forest

20 Georgia Tech at NC State

18 Oklahoma at 21 Texas A&M

Purdue at Michigan St

12 Arkansas at USC

Want to be reader of the week? E-mail your picks for next week's games to gcksprts@gwm.sc.edu and see if you have the best knowledge of college football action around the country.

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